PATENT
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AMENDMENT

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method for enhancing the production, in a producer cell, of an infectious retrovirus comprising an envelope polypeptide, which method comprises inhibiting the expression or activity of an endogenous receptor on the producer cell which is capable of binding to the envelope polypeptide, thereby blocking binding of the receptor to the envelope polypeptide and enhancing the production of said infectious retrovirus as compared to the production of an infectious retrovirus without inhibition of the endogenous receptor.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is selected from Pit1, Pit2 and CD4 and its coreceptors.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the envelope polypeptide is an amphotropic envelope polypeptide.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that binds to a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor, or to a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the gene product is selected from a ribozyme, an anti-sense ribonucleic acid and an external guide sequence.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the gene product is expressed by a vector.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is a lentivirus.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 which further comprises isolating the infectious retrovirus produced by the producer cell.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition which method comprises isolating the infectious retrovirus produced by the producer cell according to the method of claim 1 and admixing the isolated infectious retrovirus with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, wherein the infectious retrovirus is replication-defective.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A producer cell according to the method of claim 1, wherein expression or activity of the receptor is inhibited, thereby blocking the binding of the receptor to the envelope polypeptide.

17. (Previously presented) A producer cell comprising an infectious retrovirus comprising an envelope polypeptide, wherein expression or activity of an endogenous receptor on the producer cell is inhibited, thereby blocking the binding of the receptor to the envelope polypeptide.

18. (Previously presented) The producer cell according to claim 17, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that binds to a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor, or to a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that cleaves, directly or indirectly, a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor or a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the gene product is expressed by a vector.

21. (Previously presented) The producer cell according to claim 17, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that cleaves, directly or indirectly, a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor or a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.